

Message Text

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TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER)

SUBJ: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT BERNARD GWERTZMAN BYLINER HEADLINED
"AL AHRAH REPORTS A KISSINGER PLAN", THE NEW YORK TIMES,
MAY 2, 1974.

2. FOR NEWSMEN ACCOMPANYING SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER,
THE MOOD IN THIS SEASIDE CITY WAS STRIKINGLY DIFFERENT
DEPENDING UPON WHOM THEY WERE LISTENING TO.

3. PRESIDENT ANWAR EL-SADAT THIS EVENING WENT OUT OF HIS
WAY AT THE FIRST OF TWO NEWS CONFERENCES TO PREDICT THAT
"MY FRIEND DR. HENRY" WOULD BE AS SUCCESSFUL IN ARRANGING
AN AGREEMENT FOR A SEPARATION OF TROOPS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND
SYRIA AS HE WAS ARRANGING ONE IN JANUARY BETWEEN EGYPT AND
ISRAEL.

4. LIKEWISE, FOREIGN MINISTER ISMAIL FAHMY MADE HIMSELF
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AVAILABLE TO NEWSMEN STAYING AT THE PALESTINE HOTEL AND

PROVIDED FACTS AND OPINION TO CREATE THE IMPRESSION THAT MR. KISSINGER HAD THE AGREEMENT VIRTUALLY WRAPPED UP.

5. MR. KISSINGER DID NOT COMMENT DURING THE FIRST OF THE JOINT MEETINGS WITH NEWSMEN, BUT AT THE SECOND ONE HE FIRMLY REPEATED WHAT HE AND HIS TOP AIDES HAD BEEN SAYING ALL WEEK: HE WAS BEGINNING THE TALKS UNCERTAIN OF THE

OUTCOME AND WITHOUT ANY DEFINITE IDEA OF WHAT WILL HAPPEN.

6. EARLIER HIS ASSOCIATES HAD REACTED WITH SURPRISE AND DISBELIEF WHEN ASKED TO COMMENT ABOUT THE STATEMENTS AND RUMORS FROM THE EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS AND NEWSMEN WHO CIRCULATED FREELY AMONG THE VISITING AMERICANS.

7. THE EGYPTIANS TALKED ABOUT MR. KISSINGER'S "PLAN" FOR DISENGAGEMENT THAT HE REPORTEDLY DISCUSSED WITH MR. SADAT LAST NIGHT AND THAT HE WOULD PRESENT TO ISRAEL AND SYRIA. MR. KISSINGER AND HIS AIDES ASSERTED THAT THE SECRETARY HAD NO SUCH PLAN BUT ONLY SOME IDEAS ON THE KIND OF COMPROMISES NEEDED.

8. THE DIFFERENCE MAY BE ONLY SEMANTIC, BUT IN ANY EVENT THE LEADING CAIRO DAILY, AL AHRAH, PRINTED A SUMMARY OF A FOUR-POINT PLAN, ALL OF WHOSE POINTS HAD BEEN MENTIONED TO NEWSMEN BY AMERICAN OFFICIALS EARLIER AS POSSIBLE AREAS OF COMPROMISE.

9. EL QUNEITRA'S RETURN ASKED. ACCORDING TO AL AHRAH, THE ISRAELIS WOULD BE ASKED BY MR. KISSINGER NOT ONLY TO GIVE UP THE 300 SQUARE MILES OCCUPIED LAST OCTOBER IN THE GOLAN HEIGHTS BUT ALSO AN AREA OF 10 SQUARE MILES SEIZED THERE DURING THE JUNE, 1967, WAR. THIS SECOND AREA WOULD INCLUDE EL QUNEITRA, THE SYRIAN TOWN WHOSE RETURN HAS BEEN GIVEN HIGH PRIORITY BY DAMASCUS. THE ISRAELIS HAVE OFFERED TO RETURN ONLY TERRITORY TAKEN LAST OCTOBER.

10. THE "PLAN" ALSO CALLED FOR THE THINNING OUT OF SYRIAN AND ISRAELI FORCES ALONG THE NEW LINES, THE STATIONING OF UNITED NATIONS FORCES IN A BUFFER AREA AND THE RETURN OF PRISONERS AND THE SYRIAN REFUGEES TO THEIR HOMES.

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11. THERE WAS ALSO A PERSISTENT RUMOR - MET WITH SHARP DENIALS BY AMERICAN OFFICIALS - THAT ISRAEL HAD ALREADY AGREED PRIVATELY TO RETURN EL QUNEITRA. SOME EGYPTIANS WERE ALSO SAYING THAT BY THE TIME MR. KISSINGER COMES BACK TO ALEXANDRIA ON SATURDAY AFTERNOON, MORE THAN 80 PER CENT OF THE NEGOTIATIONS WILL HAVE BEEN COMPLETED.

12- MR. KISSINGER'S TOP AIDES SAID THAT THE EGYPTIAN OPTIMISM WAS ENCOURAGING BUT THAT AS FAR AS THEY KNEW IT WAS ALSO GROUNDLESS. THEY SAID THAT MR. KISSINGER EXPECTS "BLOOD ON THE FLOOR" WHEN HE MEETS WITH THE ISRAELIS AND ARGUES FOR COMPROMISE. THEY SAID THAT HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT KIND OF RESPONSE HE WOULD GET FROM PRESIDENT HAFEZ AL-ASSAD OF SYRIA.

13. NO ONE KNOWS FOR SURE WHY THE EGYPTIANS ARE SO

OPTIMISTIC AND THE AMERICANS SO CAUTIOUS. PROBABLY THE EGYPTIANS, WHO HAVE COMMITTED MUCH OF THEIR PRESTIGE IN THE ARAB WORLD ON MR. KISSINGER'S DIPLOMACY, ARE HOPING TO IMPROVE HIS CHANCES FOR SUCCESS BY PREDICTING IT. IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE THEY ARE MORE FORTHCOMING WITH INFORMATION THAN THE AMERICANS, WHO MAY BELIEVE THAT PRUDENCE IS THE WISEST COURSE TACTICALLY.

14. QUESTION OF BRIEFING. ONE OF THE PROBLEMS IN TALKING WITH MR. KISSINGER'S AIDES ON THE HOTEL TERRACE OVERLOOKING THE MEDITERRANEAN WAS THAT NEWSMEN WERE NEVER SURE THAT THE AIDES HAD BEEN ADEQUATELY BRIEFED BY MR. KISSINGER ON THE SECRET CONTACTS IN THE LAST COUPLE OF DAYS OR EVEN ON WHAT HE AND MR. SADAT WERE DISCUSSING WHEN THEIR WIVES W
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